

## Launch Event: Sustainability Recommendations on Promoting the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Cambodia's Garment, Footwear and Travel Goods (GFT) Sector

25<sup>th</sup> July 2024, 8:00AM – 12:00PM, Hyatt Regency Phnom Penh, Phnom Penh

### Background

This event will present the second of five **Sustainability Recommendation Papers (SRPs)** supported by **German Development Cooperation** and coordinated closely with the **Responsible Business Hub (RBH) of EuroCham Cambodia**, which is co-hosted by **TAFTAC**.

The first edition of this series addressed the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence and Harassment (GBVH) at the Workplace. The event took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2024. **The second edition will address social inclusion of persons with disabilities in the GFT sector.** Building on the success of a Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) event on this topic organised jointly between the RBH and CARE in September 2023, the paper consolidates the deliberations and recommendations of the participating public and private stakeholders, as well as civil society organisations and development partners. Key stakeholders include the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Ministry of Social Affairs Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Disability Action Council, National Employment Agency, National Social Security Fund, organisation representatives for Persons with Disabilities, TAFTAC, factories, BFC, CARE, GIZ-FABRIC, and more. CARE has led the drafting process of the SRP. Their experts conducted additional research, consultations, and interviews with many of the above stakeholders, and they will present the SRP findings at the launch event. The goal of the SRPs is to support the implementation of the Cambodian Government's GFT Sector Development Strategy 2022-2027 which aims to ensure the sustainable transformation of the GFT industry in Cambodia. The recommendations seek to **inspire multi-stakeholder action to create a more equitable, inclusive, and responsible GFT sector** that benefits all stakeholders involved. Specifically, the paper provides strategic recommendations to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the GFT sector.

### Specific Objectives

This event aims to bring together key players from the government, business associations, private sectors, civil society, and development partners with the aim to:

- Disseminate the findings of the SRP: Promoting the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities into the GFT Sector.
- Exchange knowledge across the key players: sharing insights and best practices on addressing social inclusion of persons with disabilities at the workplace.
- Foster collaborative approaches: enhancing dialogue and cooperation among all industry stakeholders and coordinating dedicated multi-stakeholder initiatives to address inclusion of persons with disabilities into the GFT Sector.

### Event Details

- Date: Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2024
- Time: 8:00am – 12:00pm
- Venue: Hyatt Regency Phnom Penh, Phnom Penh  
Simultaneous Translation will be provided

## Agenda

| Time             | Agenda Items   | Speakers   |
|------------------|--|--|
| 8:00 – 8:30 am   | <b>Registration</b>  |  |
| 8:30 – 8:35 am   | <b>National Anthem</b>   |  |
| 8:35 – 8:45 am   | <b>Welcome Remark</b>  | Mr. Samuel Schleipman, Coordinator, Responsible Business Hub, EuroCham Cambodia  |
| 8:45 – 09:10 am  | <b>Opening Remark:</b><br>Cambodia's Government Initiatives for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the GFT Sector             | H.E Lim Suyhong, Under - Secretary of State, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training of Cambodia  |
| 9:10 – 9:20      | Presentation by PwD Representation: Experiences and Successes  |  |
| 9:20 – 9:40 am   | <b>Keynote Presentation:</b><br><u>SRP Launch</u> : Promoting the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities into the GFT Sector         | Ms. Neou Sovattha, Country Director, CARE Cambodia   |
| 9:40 – 9:50 am   | <b>Q&amp;A Session</b>   |  |
| 9:55 – 10:00 am  | <b>Small Announcement:</b><br>Introduction to the Open Space and Collection of Topics  | Responsible Business Hub Cambodia  |
| 10:00 – 10:15 am | <b>Coffee Break</b>  |  |
| 10:15 – 11:00 am | <b>Panel Discussion:</b><br>Making our GFT sector ready for effective social inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workplace | <p>H.E. Ung Sambath, Acting Secretary General, Disability Action Council (DAC)</p> <p>Mr. Andrew Tey, Centre Director, CGTI (Cambodian Garment Training Institute)</p> <p>Ms. Mak Monika - CDPO (Cambodian Disabled People's Organisation)</p> <p>Mr. Pich Sopheak, Human Resources Manager, Mutitaa Textile Social Enterprise (Winner of EuroCham's CSR Award 2023)</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Brian Badzmierowski, Communication and Membership</p> |

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|                  |  | Engagement Senior Officer,<br>EuroCham Cambodia                      |
| 11:00 – 11:30 am | <b>Empowering for Change (Open Space exercise):</b><br><br>From recommendations to statement of commitment and joint actions | Moderator: Responsible Business Hub Cambodia<br><br>*** Facilitators |
| 11:30 – 11:40 am | <b>Participants’ Feedback Survey</b>   | Responsible Business Hub Cambodia                                    |
| 11:40 – 11:50 am | <b>Closing Remark</b>  | Mr. Hasso Anwer, Project Manager,<br>GIZ FABRIC Cambodia             |

## Responsible Business Hub (RBH)

### About

In the post-COVID 19 era, the Cambodian economy is on a recovery path with the aim of revitalizing sustainable economic growth and seizing new emerging opportunities. This mainly affects the exporting industries in Cambodia, foremost the textile and garment sector, which are confronted, among others, with sustainability demands to remain competitive in the “new normal”. This brings the need to mitigate negative social and environmental impacts in the production.

The German government supports producers in Cambodia through various initiatives, which include the FABRIC Cambodia implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

GIZ FABRIC, in collaboration also with Textile Apparel Footwear and Travel Goods Association in Cambodia (TAFTAC), supported the European Chamber of Commerce (EuroCham) to create the Cambodia’s first **Responsible Business Hub (RBH)**.

The RBH is a free service help desk for local businesses. It provides tailor-made, free of charge information and advisory services around sustainability, due diligence risk management which will ultimately link the gap between the national and international level actors in the global supply chain of the textile industry.

### Mission

Considering the international standards deriving from new mandatory laws on sustainable due diligence across the globe, companies are subject to due diligence duties in their global supply chains to prevent and address the negative impacts of business activities on people and the environment.

#### RBH’s Mission

- improve the ability of the private sector to understand and prepare for new sustainable due diligence standards;
- improve the competitiveness, sustainability, and capacity for environmental and social due diligence of the Cambodian garment sectors.
- Enhance data transparency across the sector by making visible the sustainability progresses so far achieved in Cambodia